(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of persons employed in these units was 129.80 lakh which has increased to 171.58 lakh in the year 1998-99;

(d) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(e) the reasons for which the number of workers has not increased in proportion to the increase in the number of units during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the estimates, the number of Small Scale Industrial units in the country was 20.82 lakhs during the year 1991-92. This has increased to 31.21 lakhs upto the year 1998-99.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The reasons for decline in the number of workers in proportion to the increase in the number of units can be attributed to new technologies of production.

Investigation in Khadi Gram Udyog Industries by Foreign Agencies

1389. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign agencies have been delegated to investigate the Khadi Gram Udyog Institutes;

(b) whether agitation has taken place due to this reason;

(c) whether some organisations have submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.